

Good Morning/Afternoon,

My name is Alexis Parchment and I am here to support Bill #5869 which will increase funding for CT's agriscience programs. I am 14 and currently a freshman taking all honors classes at Nonnewaug High School. I live in Ansonia although I decided to attend this school mainly because of its ag program. The program is very hands on and really provides a great learning experience. There is so much offered here that I would not have been able to benefit from had I chosen to attend Ansonia High School. Every morning I wake up at five o'clock. The bus ride to school takes about an hour and fifteen minutes. Attending Nonnewaug meant that I would have to leave behind my friends and the things I was used to. Not all of my friends supported me in my decision in going so far to attend school where I didn't know anyone, but I knew that this was what I really wanted to do. At first I wasn't sure, but now I can see that I made the right decision. I believe that I have really learned a lot in just my first six months at Nonnewaug High School. I have had hands-on experience with so much more than I could have ever imagined had I not decided to come to this school. I managed to adjust to the school and have even participated in the Veterinary Technology and FFA Creed Public Speaking Career Development Event competitions.

Because I plan to become a vet in the future, attending Nonnewaug will provide me with the experience I need. I am able to work with the animals which also contributes to the learning experience. The involvement I have here would have never been possible had I stayed at Ansonia. Also, engaging in work such as basic care of the animals will really prepare me for what I plan to do. Had I not chosen to come to Nonnewaug, I would

have not been able to be involved in half of the things I have here and experiences such as getting to work with the animals would not have been possible. Being enrolled in this program will help me become better prepared for college and ultimately for vet school so I can pursue my chosen career. If you pass this bill, you will give so many more students an opportunity to benefit from the ag program as much as I have.

Thank you for your time,

Alexis Parchment